

# Official Newsletter of the Miniwanca Younger Boys and Pre-Senior Camps

AMERICAN YOUTH FOUNDATION, 3930 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis 8, Mo.

NOVEMBER

1951

## BEACHES, SANDS, BREAKERS, CREEKS -



Greetings and salutations direct from Camp Miniwanca. Yessir, Chief Wadjepi is still here, supervising the reconstruction of the Eating Lodge over in the main unit on Lake Michigan. You see, for more than 25 years twelve groups of OB campers had to sit on the screened porch at meal time - not enough room for them inside the Lodge. And we have had to have two breakfast, two lunch, and two dinner periods in OG for the past seven years - couldn't get them all in the Eating Lodge at one time. So, we are making a big and much needed improvement for handling the big OB and OG Camps.

Yesterday it rained, and Don Pierce and I spent the day with Ray Burmeister, "draining" the water system in YB. And that, gentlemen of YB, is what you may call "some job." Just think of the - shall I say miles - of water pipes running all over the place, dozens of valves to be opened or shut, as the case may be, the plugs to be taken out at low drainage spots, the "traps" under washbowls and sinks to be opened and drained, the toilet bowls to be siphoned out, absolutely clear of water, the dips in the pipe lines to be propped up so as to have complete drainage, and a dozen and one other things to be cared for, to be sure that there is no water at all in the water system over the winter months. Just a little bit of water left in a "pocket" somewhere, and wham, there is a big break, and therefore much work to be done next spring before we can get the water system working again. We got wet, and as we tried to write additional information in the drainage book, the rain dropped on the pages, and we sure had a time of it. But the big point is, we got the job DONE, and done right, and now YB is all snuggled up for the winter.

Well, I just wish all of you could have been with me yesterday as I stood on the cement plaza in front of YB Assembly and looked up over Stony Lake. The colors are

2. beautiful beyond description. And over to the right the magnificent birches, with their gorgeous yellow leaves and snow white trunks stood out sharply, like sentinels guarding the right bank of our beautiful lake. When the sun shines, the birches and all the trees are clearly reflected in the water, making a truly magnificent sight.

And oh yes, Mrs. Orwig and I made a trip down along our south line of the camp property for the purpose of posting some signs, and we came across a lot of deer tracks, including the wide print of a big buck, and the smaller prints of the doe and fawn.



And again, while checking the Nature Cabin, along Stony Creek, whoosh around the bend came five ducks, and before you knew it two of them had hit the water just below where I was standing. The other three stepped on the gas and kept on going, just as they were about to light. They dropped down into the water, Stony Creek, just a short distance ahead. I had no gun, and no license, so-ooo, the ducks were safe! Probably would have been anyhow. A flock of partridges also took to the wing as I walked along Pottowatomie Trail one morning on the way to camp.

And the fall storms - zowie! You boys will all be surprised next summer when you see what has happened along the shore of Lake Michigan. The strong winds and high water kept tearing away at the shore dunes with the result that practically all the way along our Michigan waterfront we have "walls" of sand ranging from two to twelve feet high. When the storms had subsided a bit (72 hours of very high winds) Don Pierce came for us one Sunday morning in his faithful jeep, and we drove along the shore, or what beach we had, to see what damage had been done. At one point we took a picture of the jeep standing way below the top of the sand wall. Before the storm, the shore dune at that point came right down to the beach. Up at Point Sable summer colony, some of the cottages which you boys saw when you hiked to the Lighthouse are now perched up on a twenty to twenty-five foot sand wall. At one place the waters of Lake Michigan are directly below the porch of the cottage. Before the storm, the beach dunes were out fifty or seventy-five feet beyond the cottage. Lots of new things to see next summer. If the water is not as high as this year, we should have a truly magnificent beach, with all the sand that has been washed down from the shore dunes.

Well, camp this summer was really something. I've seen them all since YB was started back in 1930, and I can honestly say that YB this year was right up with the best we have ever had. And what made it so? Well, in the first place, there is the eternal and everlasting beauty of our magnificent wooded sand dunes. I tell you, you just can't beat it. Miniwanca is indeed most fortunately situated, with our tall ridges, our deep draws, and our three swell waterfronts.

But good location is not enough - you've got to have boys, campers, who are cooperative, interested, friendly, clean minded, fun loving, and who are eager to make their camping experience produce something for themselves in the way of personal growth and development. And this summer we sure had that kind of campers. I don't know when I have seen a more cooperative bunch of boys. You sure did your part to help write the magnificent record for the 1951 YB Camp.

But there is something more, and here is where the Leadership comes in. Right on down the line and across the board, the leaders made the best interests of the boys their first consideration. Our sincere thanks to Joe and Dad, and Charlie and Glenn, and Al, and Ed, and Roy, and Dave, and Gene, and Bill, and Dave, and Phil, and Larry, Johnny, Gil, Body, Bob, Jim, Dick, Pete, George, Paul, Dave, Nate, Harry, and Jack, and the swell group of camper-leaders that made up the leadership of this year's camp. And there you have the ingredients of a good camp - good place, good campers, good leaders.



Of course, you boys would howl, and rightly too, if we did not include Ruth Steiner and her swell kitchen staff - Mary, Carol, Jody, Betty Ann, Charlotte, Betsy, Jeanne, Allen, Bud, Bob, Paul, Dayton, and our peerless office manager, Aileen, and our Jim-dandy nurse, Freda. Kodaya, Minisino and I were glad to come into the picture from time to time, as schedule permitted. Our sincere thanks go to all the members of the workstaff who worked so hard to see that we had good meals, on time, and plenty of eats.

We were all quite thrilled with our new activity this past summer - the rifle range. The entire project was well planned and well supervised. The very strict and precise procedure of accepted rifle range practice was followed. The target boards were installed in a "V" draw among the dunes, with Old Baldy at the end of the draw, as a sort of back-stop. No chance of anyone moving into the range of rifle fire. All campers waiting their turn to shoot were kept behind the barrier, back of the shooters. The shooters took their places and were then handed just one cartridge apiece. The loading order was given, the shot fired, and the rifle immediately laid down, pointed to the target. This will be an increasingly favorite sport for the campers of future years.

The new dark room with its complete set of new equipment was much enjoyed and appreciated by the boys who enrolled in the photography interest classes. This creative activity should now become a very attractive feature of the camp program.



The YB Choir this year was a humdinger, and their singing was a real outstanding feature of the camp. A big thank you to the boys who worked so hard to make such a fine contribution to camp life.

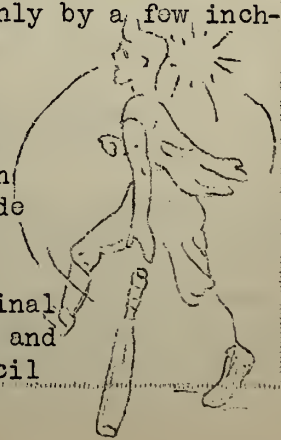
And the Orchestra - wow!!! Under Dave's leadership that orchestra sure did go places. I can still hear them performing at the Leaders' Frolic. Good work, fellows! Bring your instruments next summer and let's have an even bigger and better orchestra, if that is possible.

That Leaders' Singing Group gave a good account of itself, too; real harmony there, and they made a hit whenever they sang. Nothing like good old fashioned "close harmony". Say what you will, modern jazz whoopee doopoe just can't touch it. Come back next summer, fellows, and do it all over again. We like it!

The plays given by the Dramatics Class were exceedingly well done and highly entertaining. And here again is a place where the fine cooperation of the campers was much in evidence. The funny things were laughed at and enjoyed, but in no single instance did the audience get out of hand, nor fail to keep quiet when the lines were being spoken. Thus everyone was able to enjoy the fun, of which there was plenty.

Athletics were well handled, with Pete Ekern at the helm. Tribal competition was keen, and on a high level of sportsmanship. Whereas no new records were made, in a number of events the all-time records of the camp were maintained only by a few inches or feet, as the case may be.

Gil Barnes did a swell job as head of the Aquatic Department. Here again, the all-time records of the YB camp came very close to being equalled. The instructional swim classes did very good work with an unusually large group of boys receiving recognition for progress made in swimming and diving.



Camp Fire programs in the Council Circle were if anything more original and entertaining than usual. Low Council stunts were really funny, and some of the entries in Grand Council were positively tops. In Council

4. everyone has a chance to do something. During the year is a good time to be thinking out some stunts and funny skits to be presented next summer.

### MINI WANCA SQUARE GARDEN



What a night, and what a program! It's all done up professional style - ring, padded boards, twisted rope, over-head lights, managers, seconds, time keepers, referees, judges, water-buckets, (and water in 'em, too) taped hands, rubber teeth, good gloves - a great show. Who are going to be the champs next summer?!!

LARRY ABBOTT's Archery Class was some class. For those of you who do not know, keep in mind that Larry is a top flight archer, a competitor in National Archery Championship Tournaments. Larry left camp for a week to attend the National Tournaments this past summer. He came out very well, right up among the top bracket of shooters. Larry and his dad, a former Founder Camper, planned to go hunting this fall with bow and arrow. So you can see that the archery class had top flight instruction. Congratulations to you who were in Larry's classes.



CHRISTIAN IDEALS ? Well, every last one of you campers will agree that here is the real heart of Miniwanca. Can you imagine anything more attractive and helpful than those Vesper Services up on YB Vesper Dune, looking out over the tree-tops and across the dunes to Lake Michigan and the glorious sunset? The talks by our leaders - tops you will say! And the church services on Chapel Dune, the banked seats under the canopy of trees, Lake Michigan in the distance, the stone altar built by YB campers, the processional, and the placing of the flag of our country and the Christian flag, the splendid choir, the interesting sermon by one of our own leaders, the hymns, and prayers - yes, your minds will go back, back, back, and across the years to those quiet and worshipful hours spent on Chapel Dune, and never, never will you forget them, and never will you escape the uplifting memory of those YB church services. Of course the Christian Ideals Classes brought to us new ideas, new information, new ideals and standards, and a deeper meaning of what being a Christian person really means. Yes, in our Christian Ideals program we learned the true meaning of Christian Citizenship, and we will never forget that America and the world needs Christian leaders like you YB campers. Hold high your Founder Torch, and always strive to be four-fold, living at your best - physically, mentally, socially and religiously, according to the Jesus Way.

WELL NOW, ABOUT NEXT SUMMER. Plans are already under way. Joe Whitwam will again direct YB. The entire staff of leaders are again being invited, and it is hoped that some of the outstanding leaders of past years also will be able to return.

As usual, old campers (that means you), will be given the first chance to register. We should keep in mind that the camp limit is set at 160. This was pushed up this past summer to a total of 176, not counting the camper-leaders. We would prefer to keep it at 160, and may decide to do so for next summer. The point is, old campers should exercise their priority right away and make their reservations at once. Better read that again. We have written your parents, and sent them an enrolment card. Talk it over with your folks, and be one of our YB Miniwanca early Birds. What say? Your place will be held for you until November 30th.

New Campers, those registering for the first time, may enter their applications any time. It is of course understood that you old campers come first - you have priority in the matter of registration. Your place will be held for you until the 30th of November. In the meantime, many applications from new campers will come in. These, for the time being, will be placed on a reserve list. Immediately after November 30 these new campers will be accepted in the order of their application. So, please be



sure to urge your friends to get in their applications right away. Tear out the attached yellow sheet, fill it out with the names and addresses of your prospects (please print or write very plainly!) and-PRONTO-shoot it in to us at our St. Louis office. We'll send the parents full information right away.

Well, it's a big so-long to you YB camper. This issue of the Trail will probably be in your hands several weeks before Thanksgiving Day. May it be a great day for you campers of 1951, from twenty-seven states and one foreign country. May you have plenty of turkey and stuffing and cranberry sauce, and no tummyache!!

And may your year in school be a top year for you. No matter who you are, or how good or how poor your grades may have been, remember, it is the way of Miniwanca always to seek higher levels in all things. Dig in your cleats, eyes on the goal, head up, chin in, smile on face, and work, work hard on your studies and your daily responsibilities, and above all, honor your parents, and your country and your God, and so be a true Founder Camper at all times.

So long for now,



*Wadjepe'*

P. G. Orwig, Director

Y O U N G E R    B O Y S    C A M P    R O S T E R    1 9 5 1

S T A F F

- P. G. Orwig, "Wadjepe", 3930 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis 8, Mo.
- Joseph Whitwam, 1021 Regent Street, Niles, Michigan
- R. A. Waite "Dad", 5825 Nina Place, St. Louis 12, Mo.
- Dr. Frederick E. Ludwig, 916 - 7th St., Port Huron, Mich.
- Dr. Myron W. Davis, 3720 Washington Blvd., St. Louis 8, Mo.
- Miss Freda Fry, 1035 Princeton Rd., Berkley, Mich.
- Mrs. Aileen Givens, 153 Burlington Rd., Riverside, Ill.
- Charles Pauck, 10 Estill Street, Berea, Kentucky
- Dr. O. W. Warmingham "Kodaya", 828 Chestnut Street, Waban 68, Mass.
- Miss Ruth Steiner, 15 University Place, Princeton, N. J.
- Dr. J. Garrett Allen, 5212 Greenwood Ave., Chicago 15, Ill.

L E A D E R S

- Abbott, Lermon, 407 Cheshire Dr. N. E., Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 320 Burnham Hall, Western Mich. College, Kalamazoo, Michigan
- Akagi, Roy Hideya, 1580 Shimo-Hoya, Hoya-Machi, Kitatama-Gun, Tokyo, Japan
- Oak Hill Dormitory, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio
- Arthur, John R., 120 West Willow, Clarinda, Iowa
- 2120 Lincolnway, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa
- Barnes, Gilbert, 5926 East Pleasant Run, Indianapolis, Indiana
- 206 So. Lowe St., Lawrence College, Appleton, Wisconsin
- Bodenbender, Reinhardt, 2732 - 7th Street, Moline, Ill.
- Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois

Brock, Al, 418 Grandview Street, Sanford, Florida  
 Garrett Bible Institute, Evanston, Illinois  
 Buckey, David, 1487 Rockland Ave., Rocky River 16, Ohio  
 745 Commonwealth Ave., Boston Univ., Boston 15, Mass.  
 Burger, Robert, 404 Yorkshire Place, Webster Groves 19, Mo.  
 2451 Ridge Road, Divinity School of Pacific, Berkeley 9, Calif.  
 Chapin, John, 800 Warder Ave., University City 24, Mo.  
 DePauw University, Greenvastle, Indiana  
 Clark, Edward T. Jr., 205 W. Piccadilly St., Winchester, Va.  
 Andover Newton College, Newton Centre 59, Mass.  
 Clark, James E., 205 W. Piccadilly St., Winchester, Va.  
 Box 289, Univ. of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia  
 Craig, John B., 1253 N. Congress St., Jackson 23, Mississippi  
 Doerbaum, G. Richard, 1711 Del Norte Ave., Richmond Heights 17, Mo.  
 College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio  
 Ekern, H. Peter, Ekern Fjord, Mexico, Missouri  
 University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri  
 Givens, Gene, 153 Burlington Rd., Riverside, Ill.  
 Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire  
 Hoffsommer, John C., 6900 Dartmouth Ave., College Park, Md.  
 37th & Spruce Streets, Box 880, Univ. of Pa., Philadelphia 4, Pa.  
 Hulbert, Glen F., 929 - 31st Street, South Bend 15, Indiana  
 Garrett Bible Institute, Evanston, Ill.  
 Lewis, Phillip W., R.R. 4, Box 314, Anderson, Ind.  
 745 Commonwealth Ave., Boston Univ., Boston 15, Mass.  
 Lovett, William E., 189 Bonnie Brae, N.E., Warren, Ohio  
 Federal Hall, Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio  
 Nichols, G. Truman, 1115 Garfield Ave., Laramie, Wyoming  
 Oberbeck, Paul A., 7850 Gannon Ave., University City 24, Mo.  
 Perkins, David E., 5615 Lisette St., St. Louis 9, Mo.  
 Pierce, Nathaniel F., 513 Sunset Lane, East Lansing, Mich.  
 Porter, Harry P. Jr., 1583 Virginia St. E., Charleston 1, W. Va.  
 Box 362, Washington & Lee Univ., Lexington, Va.  
 Underwood, Glenn E., 49 Wheatsheaf Lane, Princeton, N. J.  
 Voelkel, Robert T., 532 Oakdale St., Ft. Wayne 6, Ind.  
 Douglass Hall, College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio  
 Warren, David, 3405 Shenandoah Street, St. Louis 4, Mo.  
 Wilhelm, Jack, 15 Main Street, Hart, Michigan  
 Wood, Jack, 850 E. Jefferson Street, Franklin, Ind.

#### C A M P E R - L E A D E R S

Adair, James R., 2223 Brown Rd., Overland 14, Mo.  
 Boyd, Calvin, 1029 Belleforte, Oak Park, Ill.  
 Huntginton, Donald, 600 Norwood St., Spartanburg, S. C.  
 Keller, George, 998 Loudon Heights Rd., Charleston 4, W. Va.  
 Malcolm, Richard, 1132 - 24th Ave., Moline, Ill.  
 Stiles, Charles, 305 Stanley Ave., Middletown 9, Ohio

#### C A M P E R S

Abel, Bruce, 160 Wisteria Drive, Dayton, Ohio  
 Abiko, Tom, 1310 Belt Ave., St. Louis 12, Mo.  
 Alley, Crosby, 5368 Mission Woods, Kansas City 3, Kansas  
 Anderson, Robert, 20 Foxboro Rd., Clayton 24, Mo.  
 Armington, Paul, 24365 Oakhill Drive, Euclid 17, Ohio  
 Arthur, David, 120 W. Willow, Clarinda, Iowa

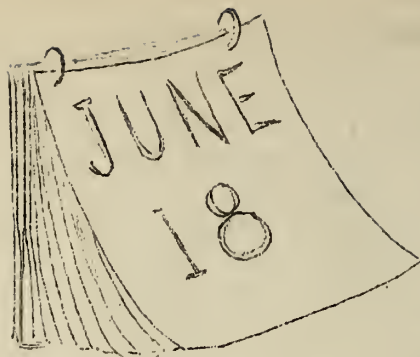


Baeyer, Matthew, 17309 Fernway Rd., Shaker Heights, Ohio  
Baker, Peter, 5325 Camino Real, Rt. 6, Box 691, Tucson, Arizona  
Ball, Edward, 6 Milburn Park, Evanston, Ill.  
Barstow, David, 2010 Hill Court, Midland, Michigan  
Bell, Eldered, 3933a Oregon Ave., St. Louis 18, Mo.  
Biggs, Tom, 445 N. Taylor, Kirkwood 22, Missouri  
Blakeslee, Thomas, 570 Hawthorn, Winnetka, Ill.  
Blocher, Kenyon, 4562 N. Delaware, Indianapolis, Ind.  
Bolz, John, Walnut, Illinois  
Bowman, Lew, 1251 Malcolm Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.  
Bowser, Ronald, 909 S. Warson Rd., Ladue 24, Mo.  
Boyd, Kenneth, 1029 Belleforte, Oak Park, Ill.  
Boyle, Michael, R. R. #1, Middletown, Ohio  
Brammer, Duane, R. #2, New Castle, Ind.  
Brandenburger, Don, 4 Arbor Rd., Clayton 24, Mo.  
Braun, Shepard, 1045 Willow Ave., Glendale, Ohio  
Brenner, David, 1121 Woodlawn Dr., New Castle, Ind.  
Bricker, David, 43 Briarcliff, Ladue 24, Mo.  
Bricker, George, 15225 Myrtle, Harvey, Ill.  
Bromley, John, 198 Edgehill, Battle Creek, Mich.  
Bucher, David, 1105 Atwater, Bloomington, Ind.  
Bugbee, Richard, 6700 Kanawha, Charleston, W. Va.  
Calkins, Barkley, Craig Road, Creve Coeur, Mo.  
Campbell, Donald, 115 Penn Ave., Mansfield, Ohio  
Campbell, Rodney, 115 Penn Ave., Mansfield, Ohio  
Carter, Michael, 2604 El Paso, Middletown, Ohio  
Case, Clyde, 3663 Riedham Rd., Shaker Heights, Ohio  
Caspari, Charles, 8021 South Drive, St. Louis 17, Mo.  
Champe, Richard, 2423 Pemberton, Toledo 6, Ohio  
Chapman, William, 1564 Ashland Ave., Evanston, Ill.  
Clark, James, 1917 Grand St., Connersville, Ind.  
Clayson, James, 600 Greenview Rd., Itasca, Ill.  
Cloutier, Allen, Green Springs, Ohio  
Cotton, Lewis, Boyle, Mississippi  
Collins, Porter, 648 Goldengate, Detroit, Mich.  
Cooley, William, 610 Forest Ave., Evanston, Ill.  
Crowder, Bobby, 825 Ridge Terr., Evanston, Ill.  
Darwent, Richard, 1620 Central Ave., Wilmette, Ill.  
Davies, John, Earle's Lane, Newton Square, Pa.  
DeZutter, Donald, 465 Oak St., Webster Groves 19, Mo.  
Dodson, Robert, 10225 N. H. Ave., Silver Spring, Md.  
Duncan, Ray, 2336 Kinsway Dr., Cape Girardeau, Mo.  
Dungan, Thomas, 33 Center St., Berea, Ky.  
Eastman, James, 1417 West St., Honesdale, Pa.  
Eiss, Robert, Adella Beach, Neenah, Wis.  
Engler, Robert, 822 Highland, Fayetteville, Ark.  
Erckman, Paul, 6115 Aberdeen, Dallas 5, Texas  
Eynon, Fred, 326 - 22nd N.W., Canton 9, Ohio  
Fechtman, John, 4523 Central, Indianapolis, Ind.  
Fell, Robert, 1005 W. Mulberry, Kokomo, Ind.  
Flint, Frank, 315 State St., Hart, Michigan  
Freeman, George, 7425 Hiawatha, St. Louis 17, Mo.  
Freshwater, Milton, 10601 Lake Ave., Cleveland, Ohio  
Gaertner, Robert, Box 135, Bloomingdale, Ill.  
Givens, Wayne, 153 Burlington, Riverside, Ill.  
Gordon, William, 925 S. Berry, Webster Groves 19, Mo.  
Grant, David, Elm Grove, Wisconsin

Granum, Michael, 102 Newport Ave., Washington, D. C.  
Gray, Edwin, 1203 W. Church, Champaign, Illinois  
Greene, Kirby, 620 Pearl St., Kirkwood, Missouri  
Hamilton, Bruce, 160 - 25th St., Canton, Ohio  
Hammerstein, Richard, 7317 Maryland, St. Louis 5, Mo.  
Hanlon, Edwin, 2674 Glenmore Rd., Westlake, Ohio  
Hardy, David, 7460 Stratford, St. Louis 5, Mo.  
Harper, George, 5440 Hayden Run, Amlin, Ohio  
Harry, Jerry, 1000 Church St., New Castle, Ind.  
Hattendorf, David, 25325 Chatworth, Euclid 17, Ohio  
Hattendorf, Jack, 25325, Chatworth, Euclid 17, Ohio  
Hawkins, Burke, 1219 5th Ave., Huntington, W. Va.  
Hayes, Dan, 607 The Alameda, Middletown, Ohio  
Hearne, James, 7321 Goff Ave., St. Louis 17, Mo.  
Hendrix, John, 1406 - 21st Ave., Moline, Ill.  
Hensley, James, 701 S. Warson Rd., Clayton 24, Mo.  
Herberts, Warren, 4333 Lawn Ave., Western Springs, Ill.  
Heryer, Fred, 5331 Mission Woods, Kansas City 3, Kansas  
Higginbotham, Don, 264 Bartram Rd., Riverside, Illinois  
Himes, Donald, 415 Clark Ave., Kirkwood 22, Mo.  
Hoener, Hank, 1118 Edward Terr., Richmond Heights 17, Mo.  
Hoffman, David, 2018 Kanawha Blvd., Charleston, W. Va.  
Horner, David, 7114 Waterman, St. Louis 5, Mo.  
Howard, Bill, 315 N. 14th, Mt. Vernon, Ill.  
Hull, Scott, 155 S. 21st St., Richmond, Ind.  
Huntington, Charles, 600 Norwood St., Spartanburg, S. C.  
Hutchins, Francis, Berea College, Berea, Kentucky  
Icke, Philip, Ouray, Colorado  
Iler, John, 2521 Valley-Vista, Louisville, Ky.  
Iler, Robert, 2521 Valley-Vista, Louisville, Ky.  
Japs, Paul, 2215 Walterdale, Louisville, Ky.  
Jenkins, Lawrence, 106 Branum, Sikeston, Missouri  
Jett, Garland, S. Third St., Richmond, Ky.  
Jett, Paul, 313 Wallace, Ct., Richmond, Ky.  
Johnson, Brian, 73 E. Maplewood, Muskegon Heights, Mich.  
Jones, Anderson, 7 W. Conron Ave., Danville, Ill.  
Jones, Hunter, 5333 Mission Woods, Kansas City 3, Kansas  
Junker, Richard, 354 Wood Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio  
Kagy, David, 2 Signal Hill, E. St. Louis, Ill.  
Klepinger, Brian, 207 E. Washington, Shenandoah, Iowa  
Kuester, David, 38 Middlesex Dr., Brentwood 17, Mo.  
Latta, Bill, 437 S. 7th Ave., LaGrange, Ill.  
Lee, Harry, 23 Skyview Dr., Vandalia, Ohio  
Lemkemeier, Ned, 7357 Carleton, University City 14, Mo.  
Lewis, John, 5388 Waterman, St. Louis 12, Mo.  
Linburg, Robert, 214 S. 19th St., Richmond, Ind.  
Listerman, Randall, 22239 Parnell Rd., Shaker Heights, Ohio  
Longenecker, Tom, 38 Canterbury Ct., Toledo, Ohio  
Ludwig, Frederick, 2864 Military, Pt. Huron, Michigan  
Ludwig, James, 2864 Military, Pt. Huron, Michigan  
Lyman, Richard, 209 Kensington, E. Lansing, Mich.  
Macaulay, Jim, 2714 Moyer St., Des Moines 10, Iowa  
Mauze, George, 29 Crestwood, Clayton 5, Mo.  
Mauze, James, 29 Crestwood, Clayton 5, Mo.  
Mauze, Layton, 29 Crestwood, Clayton 5, Mo.  
McCall, John, 6922 Standish Dr., Hyattsville, Md.  
McKinnon, Sandy, 277 Shanstone, Riverside, Ill.



Mendenhall, George, 306 S. 21st Street, Richmond, Indiana  
Menke, Ken, 76 Webster Woods, Webster Groves 19, Mo.  
Metcalf, Frederic, 611 Fair Oaks, Oak Park, Illinois  
Meyer, Allan, 336 Sixth, Marietta, Ohio  
Muehlenbrock, Albert, 5746 Finkman, St. Louis 9, Mo.  
Mullen, Robert, 5533 Cates, St. Louis 12, Mo.  
Oberbeck, Stephen, 7850 Gannon, St. Louis 24, Mo.  
Ohline, Howard, 5466 Neosho, St. Louis 9, Mo.  
Oldham, Richard, R.R. #3, Kokomo, Indiana  
Olson, Robert, 3315 Chalfant Rd., Shaker Heights, Ohio  
Patton, John, 50 Conway Lane, Clayton 24, Mo.  
Peters, Sherwood, Spring Mill Road, Plymouth Meeting, Pa.  
Pflager, Godfrey, 47 Westmoreland, St. Louis 8, Mo.  
Pharis, David, 156 Helfenstein, Webster Groves 19, Mo.  
Pyott, James, 1741 Hinman Ave., Evanston, Ill.  
Rainford, Bill, 735 Brittany Lane, University City 5, Mo.  
Rapp, Ward, 1314 Greenwood, Wilmette, Illinois  
Reeves, William, 909 Plymouth Road, Grand Rapids, Michigan  
Rhoades, David, 1138 N. 44th St., Lincoln 3, Nebraska  
Rhoades, Robert, 1138 N. 44th St., Lincoln 3, Nebraska  
Robnolte, Ray, 208 Helen Ave., Mansfield, Ohio  
Rosengreen, Gary, 2842 Clearview, St. Louis 21, Mo.  
Rowland, Robert, Brinsmere Drive, Elm Grove, Wisconsin  
Ruhl, John, 1532 Pontiac Rd., Grand Rapids, Michigan  
Schlaker, Edward, 20212 Sumpter Rd., Cleveland, Ohio  
Schuberth, William, 336 S. 7th Ave., LaGrange, Illinois  
Schwartz, Gerry, 2 Briar Oak, St. Louis 21, Missouri  
Sekera, George, 247 Bartram Road, Riverside, Illinois  
Senne, Spain, 310 Selma Ave., Webster Groves 19, Missouri  
Sikkenga, William, 115 First St., Shelby, Michigan  
Small, Charles, 4602 Monroe St., Ft. Wayne, Indiana  
Smith, John, 313 N. Main St., Arcanum, Ohio  
Smith, Stephen, 136 Eaton Drive, Middletown, Ohio  
Stauffer, David, 188 Twin Oakes Road, Akron, Ohio  
Stericker, Fred, 1409 Lowell Ave., Springfield, Ill.  
Stericker, George, 1409 Lowell Ave., Springfield, Ill.  
Suhr, James, 880 Berick Drive, University City 24, Mo.  
Sutter, John, 7215 Greenway Ave., University City 5, Mo.  
Thompson, George, 75 LeMoyne Ave., Washington, Pa.  
Thut, Frederick, 1049 S. 11th St., Charleston, Ill.  
Tucker, Allen, 2235 Ridgewood, Highland, Indiana  
Underwood, Larry, 49 Wheatsheaf Lane, Princeton, N. J.  
Van Sant, Jerry, 7204 Oak Ave., River Forest, Ill.  
Wakefield, Howard, 5466 Everett Ave., S., Chicago 15, Ill.  
Walker, David, 442 S. Park Road, La Grange, Ill.  
Wattenberg, Carl, 49 Kingsbury Pl., St. Louis 12, Mo.  
Welborn, John, Box 293, Boone, N. C.  
Wells, Tobin, Vaughan Rd., Bloomfield Hills, Michigan  
Westrup, Charles, 219 E. Jackson, Webster Groves 19, Mo.  
Westrup, Kim, 219 E. Jackson, Webster Groves 19, Mo.  
Wildman, Jerry, 211 Beauregard, Charleston, W. Va.  
Williams, Gary, 7752 East End Ave., Chicago 49, Ill.  
Wilson, John, 33 Whapley Rd., Glastonbury, Conn.  
Wulff, George, 12 Princeton Pl., St. Louis 5, Mo.  
Young, William, 335 Prospect Ave., Highland Park, Ill.  
Zook, Hurley, 914 Tennessee, Louisiana, Missouri



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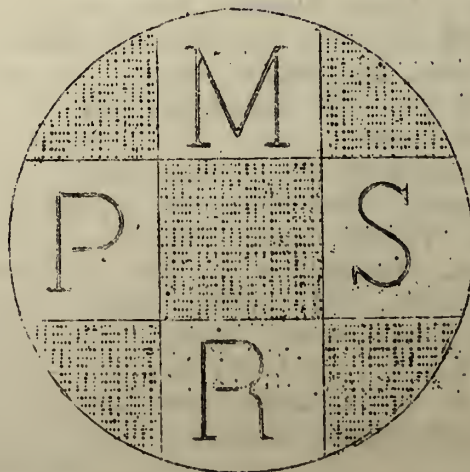
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